
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2844

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville, Schoesler, Romero, Chandler, Jarrett, Reardon, Gombosky, Morris, Sehlin, Lantz, Conway, Kenney, Santos, Ogden, Bush, Schual-Berke, Kessler, Chase, Rockefeller, Simpson, McDermott and Kagi)

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to environmental excellence program agreements;
2 amending RCW 43.21K.160; adding a new section to chapter 43.21K RCW;
3 and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
6 legislation passed in 1997 that created a voluntary program authorizing
7 environmental excellence program agreements with persons regulated by
8 the environmental laws of Washington state was intended to provide
9 flexibility to the regulated community without adversely affecting the
10 state's environmental protection standards. However, the low number of
11 environmental excellence program agreements entered into since 1997 has
12 been disappointing.

13 (2) The legislature further finds that in light of the low
14 participation rates, and the development of similar programs in other
15 states since 1997, the environmental excellence program should be
16 evaluated in an effort to identify and eliminate current barriers that
17 are discouraging the execution of environmental excellence program
18 agreements.

1 (3) The authority for the department of ecology to enter into
2 environmental excellence program agreements terminates June 30, 2002.
3 The legislature finds that this date should be extended in order to
4 continue the environmental excellence program and to provide time for
5 the legislature to evaluate and act on any necessary changes to the
6 program that will encourage increased participation.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21K RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 Citizens of the state of Washington have the following rights when
10 asking for a permit, license, or permission to engage in a lawful
11 activity:

12 (1) The right to a date in time for a decision on permits;

13 (2) The right to a defined amount of information required to award
14 a permit by a permitting authority before any application for permits
15 can be accepted; and

16 (3) The right to know the maximum amount of costs in fees, studies,
17 or public processes that will be incurred by the permit applicant.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.21K.160 and 1997 c 381 s 19 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 The authority of a director to enter into a new environmental
21 excellence program agreement program shall be terminated June 30,
22 ((2002)) 2012. Environmental excellence program agreements entered
23 into before June 30, ((2002)) 2012, shall remain in force and effect
24 subject to the provisions of this chapter.

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